

Issue# 9

# Howitt News

FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

**Professional Development Day (no school for Students): February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Friday)**

**Family Day Holiday: Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Pink Shirt Day: Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024- Wear Pink!**

## STAFFING UPDATE AT HOWITT:

We will be having some staffing changes at Howitt next week. Mrs. Fryer (Vice Principal/Inclusion Support Teacher) will be moving to work three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) as a District Inclusion Resource Teacher. She will be supporting District Staff, as well as students, families, and staff across the Alberni Valley. Mrs. Fryer will continue in her role as Inclusion Support Teacher and Vice Principal at Howitt on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mrs. Falconer will move to support Howitt as a full-time Student Support and Inclusion Support Teacher. We look forward to having her expertise and caring nature as part of our Howitt Student Support Team.

Mrs. Tasha Douglas will move to teach in our Grade 5&6 class alongside Miss Chase. Mrs. Douglas is a support teacher here at Howitt and knows our students, staff, and school.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the school. (250)723-7521.

**STUDENT LEARNING UPDATE:** our next student learning update goes home with students on Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

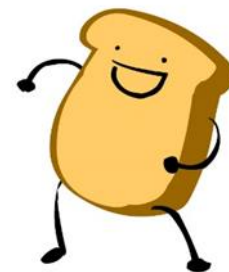


### BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOWITT:

Thanks to volunteers from the Alberni Valley Read and Feed program



we are moving our breakfast club to five days a week. Each morning from 8:20 am to 8:35 am PAC volunteers will be providing healthy breakfast options for students in the gym.



Thanks to Mrs. Sally Anderson and the Read-and-Feed program for supporting our school with breakfast program food items. A big thank you to our Howitt PAC for volunteering their time to offer this to our students.

### REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENT OR LATE

If your child will be absent or late, please contact our school at (250) 723-7521. You may also email either [behnke@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:behnke@sd70.bc.ca), or your child's teacher, to report an absence.

Reporting Absences



### PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS AND JOHN HOWITT

**Pacific Rim Schools**  
HOW TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP FOR YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

- VISIT YOUR APP STORE
- SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD "PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS"
- ALLOW FOR NOTIFICATIONS  
After you download the app make sure you allow for notifications. In the app settings make sure you set up to get notifications for website notifications, news, and events.
- ADJUST YOUR CONTENT SOURCES  
This will allow you to determine what school websites you receive notifications from. For example if you have children at ADSS and Dunn you might want to have Pacific Rim Schools, ADSS and U. Dunn selected.
- YOU ARE ALL SET

www.sd70.bc.ca

### ELEMENTARY APP FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS:

Now you can download the Pacific Rim School app to your iPhone, iPad, or android device. Search Pacific Rim Schools in the app store. Very easy to set up, and you can select multiple SD70 schools. So, if you have students at Howitt and ADSS you can set up the app to receive information from both schools. You will be able to see the school calendar, news items, and more.

### HOWITT AND JUMP ROPE FOR HEART:

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Our school is participating in Jump Rope for Heart to empower kids to build healthy habits for a healthy life and learn the importance of giving.

You can help by donating at: [John Howitt Elementary - Port Alberni | Heart & Stroke Jump Rope for Heart \(crowdfunder.ca\)](https://www.crowdfunder.com/John-Howitt-Elementary-Port-Alberni-Heart-Stroke-Jump-Rope-for-Heart)



## HOWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)



We have a long tradition of parent involvement at John Howitt Elementary with a wide variety of opportunities available for parent volunteers. For its size, our school community is very rich in resources and opportunities for our students thanks to the committed efforts of our parents over the years. The P.A.C. has worked with staff to make John Howitt a cohesive learning community dedicated to student success.

**Our next meeting is Thursday February 29th, at 6:00 pm in the library.** Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

### EXCITING AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS HAPPENING AT HOWITT:

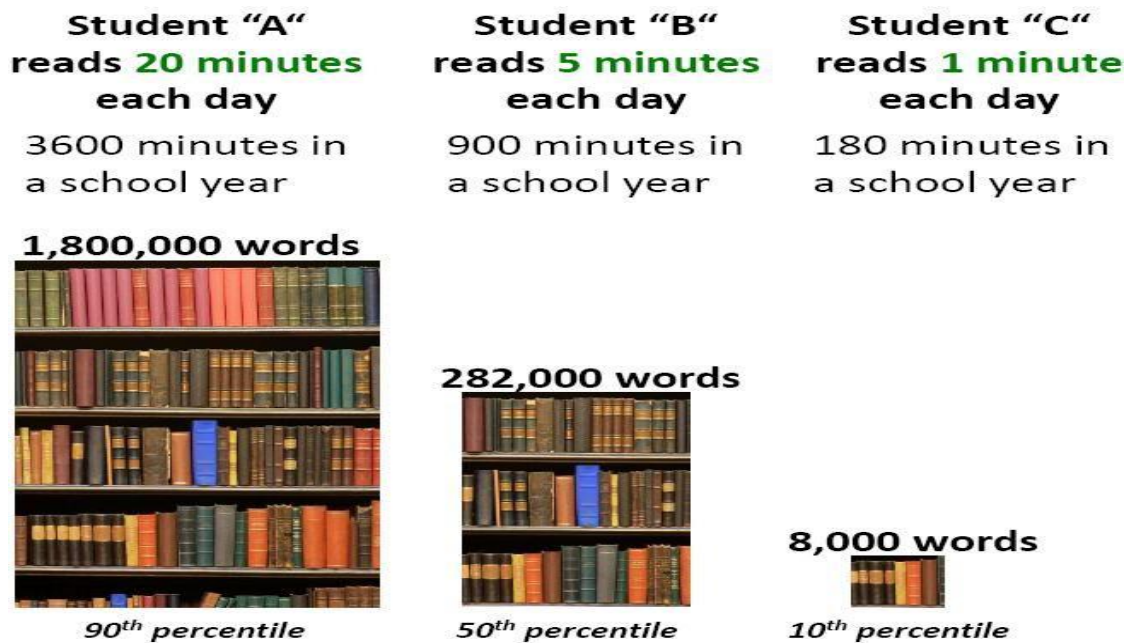


- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Ms. Lenormand's                   | Afterschool Learning Club          |
| - Mrs. Fedirchuk's and Mrs. Frost's | Art Club                           |
| - Mr. Harper's and Mr. MacLeod's    | After school games and sports Club |
| - Mrs. Mayes Grade                  | 6&7 Basketball                     |

Thanks to all our volunteers for providing these after-school opportunities in support of our students.

Upcoming school sports: Badminton, Rugby, and Track and Field.

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

**How the home can support learning: read each day with your child, or make sure they do some reading!**

### **READING STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES!**

1. When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
2. When you come to a new word, take this opportunity to talk about it in interesting ways that your child will enjoy and learn from. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
3. Read a child's favorite book over, and over again. This will provide positive reinforcement and your child will gain confidence as they are able to successfully recognize words.
4. Choose stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts.
5. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
6. Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

7. Set aside special reading time (and a special reading place). Setting a designated reading time helps in several ways. First, it allows a parent to plan their day more effectively and make time for reading. It also helps the child, especially reluctant readers, to think of reading as a normal scheduled daily activity.
8. Read with emotion. Reading with emotion draws a child into the story in a way that is much more memorable and enjoyable. It also helps them to better understand how words can describe something sad, happy, or exciting.
9. Let your child turn the pages. Besides, being enjoyable, this activity helps more active children stay focused on the book.
10. Take your child to the library to check out books. Most popular Children's books are available at the local library. This is an affordable way to give your child access to a wide range of books. Taking your child to the library also turns reading into a special occasion.
11. Ask older students to put down their device and read!

## HELPING WITH MATH AT HOME

1. Encourage children to play math puzzles and games. Puzzles and games or anything with a dice or a deck of cards will help kids enjoy math and develop numeracy and logic skills.

2. Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on math problems. Instead, try to find the logic in their thinking. For example, if your child multiplies three by four and gets seven, say "Oh I see what you're thinking; you're using what you know about addition to add three and four. When we multiply, we have four groups of three"?

3. Never associate math with speed. It is not important to work quickly, particularly in the younger years. We need to follow the First Peoples Principles and provide students with Time and Patience when developing mathematical fluency. We all know that forcing kids to work fast on math is the best way to start math anxiety for children, especially girls (Boaler, 2012)

4. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at math at school, or you dislike it.

5. Encourage number sense. Kids need to have an idea of the size of numbers and be able to separate and put numbers together flexibly.

6. Encourage a growth mindset. A growth mindset is the idea that ability and smartness changes as you work more and learn more. The opposite is a fixed mindset, where the idea is that ability is fixed, and you can either do math or you can't. According to Carol Dweck, children who have a growth mindset take on challenges with persistence and determination.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

To assist you in your long-term planning the following days are listed as important events and days that will not be in session for students at John Howitt Elementary:

February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	PAC Pizza Day
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Cheese Orders and money due
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pink Shirt Day (wear pink)
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ready Set Learn at Howitt (4-year-olds)
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jump Rope for Heart at Howitt
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Student Learning Updates coming home.
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Art Starts Performance: Frog Belly Rat Bone
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day before Spring Break
March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Easter Monday
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School Re-Opens after spring break and Easter
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Howitt Talent Show
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Pizza Day
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	PAC Pizza Day
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Indigenous Peoples Day (school in session)
June 27 <sup>h</sup>	Last Day of School for students



Sincerely,  
Mr. S. Brown  
Principal

Sincerely,  
Mrs. L. Fryer  
Vice Principal